

Journal

1900

St. John's, N. B.

Journal

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Vernon Bailey.

Washington to Texas

April 7, 1900

Left Washington at 10:55 AM on B+O for Texas. The season is late at Washington, no green on trees, Maples & elms in flower, also some willows, grain & grass fields green, a few flowers have been found.

At Oakland & Deer Park big snowbanks still lie on shaded slopes.

April 8 daylight at Washington, Ind. From there to St. Louis the season is about as at Washington. South of St. Louis (on Mo. & Iron Mtn. R.R.) the trees begin to show green, on willows & cottonwoods, peach & apple in flower.

Dark at Poplar Bluff, Mo.

April 9. Daylight at Texarkana, Texas. The trees are green with young leaves & the woods are bright with flowers. Dogwood & red bud make white & pink clouds among the green trees. In the spaces phlox and other flowers & cacti grow.

## Austin

Would have reached Austin by dark but had to wait at Taylor - 13 miles east of Austin - until 11 P.M. for an engine to get on the track, so did not get in till about 12 P.M.

April 10 Went out to the University & saw Prof. Bray. Drove over prairie & through woods till noon & in P.M. went with the Brays on a long drive west of town among the big hills. Saw the river where the old reservoir had escaped & saw many traces of the flood. Among other effects of the broken dam & recent flood were lack of electric lights & street cars, scarcity of water, closed water closets & no clean linen in the hotels.

Three miles west of Austin rise the big, flat topped limestone hills covered with junipers & scrub oaks & forming the first escarpment of the lower staked plain. At the base of this escarpment is a mesquite & cactus plain reaching to the town

## Austin

and for a long distance north + south. East of Austin, on the other side of the river, the country is half open prairie & scrub oak. In fact this prairie region seems to extend to Rockdale, or nearly to the Brazos R. as we noticed in coming in last night. South toward San Antonio the prairie country extends to the Guadalupe R. at Braunfels.

The prairies seem to be rather sandy. The mesquite plain is a limestone talus from the bluffs. Each has its peculiar flora & probably fauna.

At Austin the University campus is one mass of blue from the lupines as are acres & miles of the open country & the prairie. Many other flowers are abundant & conspicuous but nothing can equal the blue fields of lupines.

For lists of flowers, trees, & birds see reports.

## San Antonio

April 11

The 6 AM train was reported late on account of washouts so we waited until 2:30 before getting off for San Antonio.

Arrived at San Antonio too late for Corpus Christi train. Had to wait until 2:20 P.M. the next day.

April 12. Went out to the old Missions 4 miles west of town but could not get across the creek so had to be content with looking at them with a glass from a quarter of a mile away.

Took the 2:20 train for Corpus Christi & arrived there at 8:20. Went to Mr. Alexander's hotel near the beach.

From San Antonio it is all mesquite & live oak & cactus to Beeville, where the coast prairie begins & extends nearly to the coast. Scattered mesquite & hysack & chaparral are common.



## Corpus Christi

April 13 Tramped around Corpus Christi & learned something of the country. Found a place to locate 4 miles south of town with Mr. Watson. Close to the shore. Saw lots of grassy hills & some S. mexicans on flat just south of town. Found lots of birds but few mammals.

April 14 Set traps, hunted, tramped over mesquite plains & shore prairie.

April 15 Sunday. Went to traps & made up some birds & mammals. Went with Mr. Watson about 4 miles south to his father's ranch over the most beautiful flower prairie. One patch about one by 3 miles in extent is solid yellow with a beautiful *Crocosmia*. Saw road runners, killed a *Lepus mexicanus*, saw lots of *Neotoma* nests.

April 16, set traps & made up skins.

April 17, Busy trapping & skinning birds & mammals.

April 18

Went down to Flower Point, 12 miles below Corpus Christi, and crossed a narrow channel onto a small island half a mile from shore to look for pelican nests. Thousands were breeding there a few years ago but all have been driven away. The island is flat & covered with grass & weeds & cactus. The pelicans used to nest among the cactus. Saw a few pelicans, herons, gulls & terns & a lot of *Stoecaris* on the island.

Went over to the Oso Lagoon & waded out to an island where the great blue herons were breeding, about 50 nests ~~on~~ with 2, 3 & 4 eggs & a few young.

Flower Point & the flat country back of it to the lagoon are all sandy & covered with scruboaks dwarfed from inland species, & small shrubs. Thornless shrubs including a *Vaccinium*. This side of the lagoon on the hard clay soil the shrubs are all thorny.

Came home in a rain after an all day trip.



## Mueces River

April 19, Took up traps, made up skins  
and prepared for trip up river.

April 20. Went to Corpus Christi and then  
followed up the west side of the Mueces R.  
about 23 miles & camped in Griffiths  
Pasture at edge of flooded river bottoms.

Traveled through mesquite & cactus chaparral  
and over open prairie with alternating  
clay & sandy soils. Farther up the river  
the mesquites are larger & more continuous  
as a forest or "mesquite orchard" which  
is replaced on the bottoms <sup>(now flooded)</sup> by tules. We  
could not get out to the real river  
timber, said to be of elm & ash & hackberry.

Camped under mesquites in pasture  
& located a few wild Turkeys as  
they went to roost.

Noted over 40 species of birds along  
the road. Saw three species of  
geese & the two ducks tame at the  
ranch of John W. Prious near  
town.

Farms all along the first 15 miles  
with cabbages & other vegetables as crops.  
These stock ranches & big pastures.  
Cabbages are being watered.

April 21

Killed a wild turkey before they left the roost in morning. Found them roosting out over water in the cypress trees on the flooded land. Later in the day shot another turkey in the woods.

Saw a few more. Shot some birds. Set traps. Watched for turkeys in evening but they did not come back to roost.

Saw tracks of arwoodillo, coon, possum, skunk, lynx, coyote, & a few badger holes. Killed a 4 foot rattlesnake.

Set a few traps

April 22. Caught *Spilogale*, *Spassem*, *Perognathus paradoxus* & a hawk. Packed up & made the return trip to Corpus Christi. Made up skins.

April 23 Prepared for trip to Brownsville. Packed up, made reports, got camp supplies.

Least Tern 25¢  
 Wilson tern 18¢  
 Black tern 5¢  
 big white gulls 18 all kinds, mostly royal

## Corpus Christi to Kings Ranch

April 24 Started for Brownsville, on road due west from Corpus Christi. Traveled over beautiful flower covered prairie stretches & through ~~drapal~~ mesquite orchards. Road soon enters a big pasture & then continues from one pasture to another by gates.

Stopped for lunch at Buzzard Motts, (Gowra motts) (9 mi. from Corpus) then on over the same kind of country to Pitsanillo Creek & camped.

Came about 22 miles from Corpus Christi.

Photographed some stretches of flower prairie. Killed meadow lark & the birds.

April 25. Found more prairie & open country. Lunched at San Fernando Creek <sup>(10 miles)</sup> where the soil becomes more sandy. Then on over more prairie & mesquite country to Kings ranch where we strike the Alice & Brownsville stage road and turn south. This is 50 miles west of Corpus & 35 miles south of Alice. Camped at windmills 3 miles south of the ranch house in the big pasture. Soil sandy, cactus & mesquite.

Kings Ranch to San Ignacio

April 26 Traveled south all day and camped at night at Santa Rosa Ranch. Crossed big prairies + and a few strips of mesquite brush. Found more sand + at Santa Rosa big sand dunes + ridges with ponds + sloughs in the hollows between live oak + mesquites on ridges. Camped in mesquite grove near a lake that was alive with water birds. Came about 25 miles.

April 27. Traveled south all day over a big, sandy prairie with a few groves of live oak + mesquite in places. Most of the time out of sight of trees. Prairie brilliant with flowers, which alternate in giving their tints to the landscape. In places the prairie is yellow with one or two species of *Coreopsis*, *Cinisco*, or *Amothera*, orange brown with *Thalassiparous* pink with *phlox* + *Amothera*, scarlet with *Castillejas*, white with *classees*.

Camped in grove of live oaks full of birds. Came about 25 miles. are 50 mi. N. of Beausville.

to Sauz

April 28 Remained at camp all day to get our notes written up & let the horses rest, to identify the birds & trap for mammals.

The prairie stretches out of sight on all sides & the birds gather into our little grove of live oaks. Grackles, woodpeckers, & woodpeckers are breeding, many migrants are stopping here.

April 29. Traveled south all day over sandy prairie with occasional live oak groves (motts) & scattered shin oak. Very little mesquite or chaparral. Surface generally level & covered with grass & many beautiful flowers. Different species give their color to every different kind of soil or land. Each little pond has a golden halo of *Crotophaga* around it, *Oenotheras*, *Lamies*, & phlox give their colors to their chosen strips. The soil is sandy & loose & the roads very heavy.

At a place about 6 miles before reaching Sauz Ranch the open prairie stops & mesquite & cactus & chaparral begins with hard sandy soil,

to 15 miles of Brownsville

level surface, many ponds or marshes,  
and good roads except where  
the mud is deep.

Reached Sany Ranch about dark &  
camped. Grass short, mosquitos  
bad. Very warm

April 30. Continued southward from  
Sany through the same kind of  
flat mesquite country with good  
road except where muddy.

A perfect jungle of Mesquites, Huacahues,  
Parkinsonia, condalia, cactus & yuccas.

Crossed the Rio Colorado about noon.

Camped at a little Mexican ranch  
Came about 20 miles, roads flooded

May 1.

Traveled south for about 20 miles  
& camped at edge of big marshy prairie  
where the road turns west to Brownsville  
& 15 miles from town.

Left sandy soil & struck flat clay  
soil about 25 miles from Brownsville.  
This is the real river flats extending  
along both sides of the lower Rio Grande  
& is considerable rich land. It is  
a perfect jungle of cactus & mesquites.



## Brownsville

May 2. Drove into Brownsville in forenoon & in PM went across to Matamoros with Capt. Smith who showed us interesting parts of the town & country & introduced us to Miss A.E. Dyssart, the local botanist & other interesting people. Went up in the tower of the Cathedral where we could see for miles up & down the river & over the perfectly flat country on all sides. For 30 miles to the west the country is said to be the same flat, mud sailed river bottom with the same fauna & flora as ~~here~~ on the east side around Brownsville.

Cotton & corn & sugar cane are the chief crops on both sides of the river. Oranges & lemons & bananas & guavas do well but there seems to be no enterprise or energy in the people about raising fruit crops. The climate is extremely muggy.

It is 20 miles from here to the coast and harbor, reached by

a little narrow gauge R.R. Yesterday at the Rio Grande we were 12 miles from the coast.

Plants of the Brownsville bottoms

*Prosopis juliflora*

*Acacia farnesiana*

*Porbesonium aculeata*

*Fraxinus*

*Cordalia*

*Lycium*

*Zippia ligustica*

*Koeleria spicata*

*Yucca troulkara*

*Agave maculosa*

*Palmyra* *S. mexicana* - a few reported by Miss Dysart

*Opuntia engelmannii*

" *leptocaulis*

*Cereus cespitosus*?

*Echinocactus texensis*

" *setispinus*?

*Cereus stramineus*

Brownsville to Corpus Christi

May 3 Left Brownsville at noon for the return trip. Camped 12 miles out. Rained hard for an hour just before we started. Roads muddy.

May 4 - 11~~th~~. Followed the same road back to Corpus Christi via Saug Ranch, Santa Ignacia, Santa Rosa, & King Ranch. The distance amounts to about 190 miles. In the return we found many of the flowers of the previous trip gone & others taking their places.

Camped May 4, at about 5 miles south of Rio Colorado. May 5 at Rio Colorado, May 6 at pond 5 miles n. of Saug, May 7 at San Ignacia, May 8 at Santa Rosa, May 9 at Flower Mills 7 miles south of King Ranch, May 10 at Petronillo Creek, and May 11 reached Corpus Christi.

May 12 & 13 Busy packing specimens & making reports

San Antonio & Uvalde

May 14. Left Corpus Christi at 7:20 AM.  
and reached San Antonio about 2 P.M.

In leaving the coast we passed through  
the narrow belt of coast chaparral  
with its cactus, thornbrush & low  
mesquites. and met the live oak  
strip extending to Skidmore. Then  
prairie with a few scattered live oaks  
& mesquites along creeks.

After passing Kennedy we strike a  
river and see the first pecan trees.  
Then are beautiful live oaks & moss  
along the banks and fields of flowers  
are brilliant including species that  
have vanished farther north.

Reached San Antonio in a rain.

May 15. - Left San Antonio at 9 AM.  
for Uvalde, and arrived there at 2 PM.

After passing Sunday we begin to  
go up considerable grade & the country has  
some slope. A low escarpment appears  
to the north & approaches or retreats as  
we go westward, becoming higher.

The country becomes more open with  
lower, more scattered mesquites &  
stretches of open prairie. Along  
streams the mesquite is more dense

## Wvalde

& there is often thick timber of Pecan, elm, Cider, & live oaks. At Satinal the river is bordered with numerous large cypress trees (*Cupress Taxodium distichum*).

The country is gorgeous with flowers in masses - *Coreopsis*, *Senotheras*, *Rudbeckias*, *Helianthus* & *Helianthus* & *Callarhoas*, *Argemone*, *phlox* & *Lupines*. Grass is good. Pastures are large. Houses & towns few -

May 14: Wvalde. Drove out several miles west of town and to the creek east. Took some photos and notes on plants & birds. Expected to take train to Del Rio but it was 5 hours late so waited over another day for Oberholser - who was to visit us here yesterday.

The rains have made the roads very muddy & bad & filled the streams so many of them are not crossable. 8 inches of rain has fallen in 2 days.

## to Del Rio

May 17. Start over camp at noon. Had been delayed by rain & streams & had shot a piece out of his hand. Waited about an hour with him & then took the train for Del Rio.

Soon crossed the Mueces River with its extensive and somewhat wooded bottoms, climbed onto higher, more open land. Mesquite plain is characteristic yet but the mesquites are more dwarfed & scattered, low shrubs come in, grass covers the whole region which seems to be an extra good stock range. West of Spofford the country becomes more arid and lots of new plants come in of not desert species. Thence to Del Rio the country is typical arid land - real desert. Saw blue quail west of Spofford.

The lower escarpment of the stacked plains shows as a line of hills to the north until near Starnest.

Reached Del Rio at 7 P.M.  
Went to Frank's Hotel.



## To Pecos High Bridge

May 18. Drove down to the Rio Grande through the irrigated farms + Mexican rancheros. The river is still high but it has gone down from the recent flood that covered the flats. From Del Rio to the river the country is low + level enough for irrigation. Most of it is in fields of <sup>corn</sup> ~~grass~~ or grass or cotton or vegetables or orchards + vineyards. Not half of the water from the big springs of San Felipe Creek is used + much more land could be cultivated.

Figs + pomegranates + banana trees + palm do well.

~~Left~~ Went out to the big springs, 3 great boiling holes in the ground where the whole river boils out, clear, cold + sparkling. Low horizontal layers of lime rock.

Above town the country is very deserty + barren.

Left Del Rio at 4:40 P.M. for Pecos bridge + arrived there before dark.

At Devils River we run close across side to the Rio Grande + to big cliffs on the other. Great caves + sharp canyons mark the cliffs. Instead of following the Rio Grande the R.R. turns up Devils River and out over the mesa by Comstock.

May 19. High Bridge over the Pecos is on the new cut off. It is 322 feet high and 2180 feet long, spanning the top of the canyon. We stopped with Mr. & Mrs. King, the section people at east end of bridge.

Went down into the Pecos Canyon and followed up the river about 2 miles. The Canyon is about 2000 feet wide & 300 feet deep with steep walls, often perpendicular to the river's edge, of soft, stratified, fossiliferous lime. Numerous side canyons & gulches cut down to the river. A narrow sand flat borders the river part way, but it has all been flooded lately. The river rose 30 feet in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours, but has gone back to normal high water. A few trees & much brush fill the canyon bottom.

Two large springs pour into the river near the bridge. The lime rock is full of big caves and caverns.

The top of the country is a limestone mesa, very barren and desert-like with abundance of cactus, agaves, yuccas, Dasylirion & Fouquierias.

May 20 Sunday. Went to my traps & down in the canyon where I staid nearly all day, too sick to tramp about much.

May 21. As it rained all day & I did not feel well I worked on plants in the house most of the time. Identified a good number of species.

May 22. Hunted hard all the A.M. for rock squirrels but did not kill one. They live along the sides of the canyon & are very shy, running over the walls and out above if started. Packed up our things and took the 5:30 P.M. train for Alpine. Stopped at Langtry for supper & then climbed up grade onto the open, dry mesa and kept in open country till dark. A few quipers along streams mark the only change in flora of valley. Yucca glauca have gone to seed low down but on the high ground NW. of Langtry they come back in full flower - abundant & beautiful.

## Alpine

May 23. Found alpine a wretched little railroad town in the middle of a big, barren valley. surrounded by low mountains. Got a team & drove out to the ranch of Judge Brockmeyer 3 miles south of town in a corner of the mts. Found it a beautiful place among live oaks with rocky slopes & cliffs rising abruptly 2000 feet from the house. In front the ranch looks out over the smooth valley. Set traps around base of rock off. Shot a Lynx.

May 24. Went to top of the highest peak near the ranch... about 6000 feet. From it we could see rough peaks & ridges on all sides. The whole country seems a mass of low, rather barren, rough & rocky mts. of volcanic origin. The rock is hard and perhaps metamorphic in places & again porous and evidently of later origin. No good craters seen. Scattered junipers high up. No solid timber, just scattered live oaks, brush, cacti, Yuccas & Sarcocolla & Agaves.

to El Paso & Cloudcroft

May 25 Hunted, made up skins, photographed and worked around the ranch.

May 26 Went down to Alpine in evening & waited for El Paso train till 1 A.M. in morning.

May 27. Took train in night & woke up near Sierra Blanca. Found the same old, dry, barren desert with its rich odor of creosote bush. Arrived at El Paso at 8:40 & found there was no Sunday train for Alamogordo. Went to the Hotel Pierson & then over to Juarez. A hot day.

May 28 Left El Paso at 10:30 A.M. for Alamogordo, N.M. Passed Ft. Bliss out on the mesa. A neat looking post on a barren Larrea plain a typical desert. Continued on, over smoother desert valley, growing more sandy & arid & barren. Between bare rocky ranges of desert mts. No timber, no streams, no water. As the soil becomes more sandy the yuccas (a tall plant) appear.

## Cloudcroft

become more abundant, rising with trunks 8 or 10 feet high surmounted by flower stalks 5 or 6 feet. For miles these yuccas form the bulk of vegetation. They are not in flower. The country is very dry. Old dry grass is abundant but not a green blade. The bunches of dwarf mesquite are the only green things. In places it has caught the sand & formed dunes 4 to 10 feet high.

Extensive prairie hog towns near Ft. Bliss.  
Lasillo Junctions - 1 P.M.

*Artemisia filifolia*?, *Atriplex canescens*,  
*Ephedra trifurcata*, *Prosopis juliflora*,  
*Yucca stricta* & grass are the principal plants.

On the east the Sacramento Mts. rise abruptly in a wall of stratified limestone several thousand feet high & back of that we get glimpses of a higher, timber covered range.

Reached Alamogordo at 3 P.M.  
& took narrow gauge log train for the mountains of Cloudcroft. A few miles north of Alamogordo we turn up a canyon to the east & climb steadily



up steep grade for about 3 hours.  
The country is rough & picturesque.  
Struck *Juniperus pachyphloea* - *J. virginiana*?  
& *Pinus edulis* on the foot hills &  
kept with them up to edge of big pines  
& Douglas spruces. Train got tired  
& we made the last mile in wagon.  
up through beautiful forest to the  
camp of Cloudcroft.

Located in tent no 5. on Chipmunk Ave.  
Were glad to have a fire to go to bed by.  
Passed a few little cabins & log houses  
& two lumber camps. The train hauls  
logs down to Abmogordo - yellow pine &  
Douglas fir. The mountains are covered  
with splendid timber but are scantily watered.  
A few springs & creeks run low down but no  
water near the top. The supply is pumped  
up about 3 miles for the town of Cloudcroft.  
From lower Sonoran zone in the valley  
we pass through upper Sonoran, &  
transition & find ourselves in Canadian  
at Cloudcroft. Many transition species  
are still with us on warm slopes  
but otherwise the vegetation is  
pure Canadian.

May 29

Woke early with a chorus of bird songs outside our tent. + for the first time saw plainly the beautiful woods around us. Had a good breakfast in the big Pavilion dining room & then went out on Scenic Point for some photographs. Could look down over the wide valley to the west with its great, bare, shining plains & across to the blue range of mts. west of it. We are on the very top of the Sacramento mts. & the top is flat. Cloudcroft is 9130 feet above sea level.

Hunted + set traps.

May 30. Caught a lot of things & skinned + made up specimens most all day. Set more traps.

May 31. Took a lot of photos. ~~made~~<sup>made</sup> up specimens.

June 1. Took up traps, made up the last specimens, packed up our things & got ready to leave.

## to El Paso

June 2. Started down from Cloudcroft at 9 A.M., from Tloggan at 10. Read barometer, took notes on plants, & photographed all the way down to Alamogordo. when we laid over from 12 to 3. Came down on top of Colosse behind 15 loads of logs, made about 7 miles an hour.

There are 2 big sawmills at Alamogordo and the El Paso & N.E. R.R. car shops which, with the addition of county seat & a small stream of water seems to give a slight excuse for a town of 1000 people in the bare desert valley. A great, bare plain fills the bottom of Indian Wells. Just west of Alamogordo.

on the way to El Paso we met & passed through a rain & hail storm in valley with its circling, lurid clouds, solid front of rising dust, torrents of rain & hail.

The yucca plants are beginning to flower & this rain will soon bring them out. Reached El Paso at 7 P.M. & went to Mrs. Holm's boardinghouse, at 414 Magoffin Ave. Found it very pleasant.

## El Paso to Riverside, Calif.

June 3, Sunday. Wrote reports & letters all day.

June 4. Started at 8:20 a.m. from El Paso. Was impressed by the evidence that the Rio Grande had cut its way through the mountains that would otherwise have formed a chain across from the Organ Mts. to the similar range in Chihuahua west of Juarez.

The El Paso flora extends up the Rio Grande valley and west across the higher country halfway to Deming.

Got dinner at Bowie at 2 P.M.  
& supper at Tucson at 7 P.M.

June 5. Woke up at low part of Colorado desert below sea level. Got breakfast at 7 a.m. at Ludlow & reached Cotton at 9:48 a.m. Took 10:15 car to Riverside & stopped over to see the country around there.

1 Drove out 2 or 3 miles south on Victoria Ave. among beautiful orange and olive groves. Came back on Magnolia & Palm & Park Boulevards between magnificent rows of palms & pepper

## to Twin Oaks

trees & magnolias. Climbed up on Rubido heights for a view over the valley & town.

Almost the whole valley about Riverside is under thorough cultivation, the greater part in oranges, which are ripe about half gathered.

Stayed at the Glenwood Tavern, a most delightful old shady, roomy hotel in the middle of town but also in the midst of trees & rich plants.

June 6 Got up early & visited the park & cactus garden before breakfast. Found the greatest wealth of flowers strange plants & beautiful foliage I ever saw. Took train at 8:36 for San Marcos around by Santa Ana & Oceanside. Struck the shore a few miles west of the old mission Capistrano & followed it to Oceanside where we had to wait from 12 to 4:48. Tramped over hills & took photos & went bathing. Cool & windy.

Reached Twin Oaks at 5 P.M.

June 7-14. Worked about Twin Oaks  
& Escondido, trapping in valley & up  
the gulch along hills. Caught  
Thomomys, high up & low down. Collected  
a lot of birds & a few plants.

The country is dry. A few springs  
in hills & open water places in valley  
are drinking places for birds & mammals.

The mountains are about 1500 to  
2000 feet high, granite with rounded  
peaks & boulders & ridges projecting.

They are steep, ~~eroded~~ ridges with  
gravelly soil covered with chaparral  
of Adenostoma, scrub oak, Manzanita,  
Eriogonum, Rhus & other bushes  
growing in a tangle. The west slopes  
are more brushy than the east.

The valleys are mostly cultivated in  
grain & fruit which usually grow  
without irrigation but, a few years  
have been too dry for good crops.

There is very little irrigation.  
Wheat, oats, barley, corn &  
alfalfa are the main crops.

Oranges, lemons, limes,  
grapefruit, tangerines, olives,  
figs, peaches, apricots,



prunes, plums, cherries, apples,  
passerines, grapes & small fruits  
all do well. Eucalyptus groves  
are common & many Australian  
ornamental trees are raised.

A few immense live oaks &  
sycamores grow along the valleys  
but the hills are almost destitute  
of timber. The Switzerlats. 20  
or 25 miles to the east, have tall  
timber & are said to be inhabited  
by chipmunks & grizzly bears.

San Pasadena

June 14 Left San Marcos at 8:20 AM. T arrived at San Angeles at noon. Went to S. Pasadena. Ostrich farm & saw about 60 birds of various ages from 3 days up. Took photos of some blackbird riding on back of ostrich & picking at their feathers.

Went to Pasadena & out along Bear Grove Ave & Colorado St. Got good view of valley & the big mountain range that seems a continuation of the San Bernardino & very similar. High & steep & rough & rather bare of timber. Sides mostly covered with chaparral. Valley beautifully cultivated in orchards & vineyards various fruits. Beautiful houses & wonderful flowers & shade trees. Good roads. Delightful climate.

## To Sacramento + Marysville

June 15 Woke up in the south end of the San Joaquin Valley & arrived at Bakersfield for breakfast at 7. Picked up Luther J. Goldman at Alila. Reached Sacramento at 4:30 P.M. & staid over night.

June 16. Left Sacramento at 10 am. on the west road for Marysville. Crossed the River and the big tule swamp that reaches along the west side & at Davis turned north by Woodland & along the side of the valley among grain fields, fruit orchards, good farms and beautiful big oaks (*Q. lobata*) scattered over fields & valley. Recrossed the river & big tule swamp & followed up the Feather River to Yuba + Marysville. Established camp.

June 17 Sunday.

Picked up things to remain & looked for horses.

June 18. Got 2 horses, used the day in getting outfit arranged, horses shod, supplies, & outfit stuff.

Browns Valley is a wretched little mining camp in a narrow gulch. A few orange trees in one yard were broken with ripe fruit.

There is little to mark the line between Lower & Upper Sonoran zones but it is probably near Browns Valley.

## Browns Valley

June 19. Did not get off till afternoon. Traveled east 12 miles to Browns Valley and camped a mile beyond. Struck the foot hills about 8 miles east of Marysville after crossing level, fertile valley all fenced in grain. Grain ripe and a good crop. A few orchards & vineyards. Back a few miles from Marysville we struck scattered oaks (*Q. douglasii*) which increased in abundance on the foothills. No other tree in valley except along the rivers where willows & Cottonwoods form dense groves.

Wild oats, Turkey mullein & a few small plants & grasses grow, or have grown, & now stand dry, in the fence corners.

High dikes (the "flood dam") extend back from Marysville to near the foot hills to protect the land from overflow. The valley land is valued at from 100 to 500 dollars per acre.

The foot hill country is not steep or rough but the soil is stony & poor except on the bottom strips. The hills are covered with scattered oaks, *Cercocarpus canescens* & *Rhamnus*, *Rhus trilobata*, and back near Browns Valley *Pinus sabiniana* begins.

## to Dobbins

June 20. Continued all day along creek valleys and over ridges to near Dobbins & camped at ranch. In low foothills all the way. Good ranches in valley bottoms, hills dry & brushy & covered with scattering forest of oaks, diggers pines, *Quercus*, & *Quercus*. A few *Pinus ponderosa* appeared before we reached Oregon Creek but kept on the cold slopes & gulches. Passed beautiful groves of old blue oaks (*Q. douglasii*) with their white trunks & waxy branches & elm shaped tops.

Came up very slowly & camped near Dobbins at about 2000 ft. Came only 15 miles.

Crossed Oregon Creek at noon & found Alnus, Platanus & such trees along its banks.

Orchards of apples, peaches, pears, plums and figs are common along the road. Grain & hay are the principal crops. Mining is the main industry of the country.

Nearly every brook & gulch have been dug & washed.

Cronothus cuneatus &

June 21

A mile from camp we passed the little town of Dobbins. at about 2000 feet altitude, where we left the last trace of Pinus sabiniana, Quercus lobata, Q. douglasii, Cronothus cuneatus, & their accompanying forms. Saw large fig-trees & Catalpas in Dobbins door-yard.

Began climbing <sup>1 to 4 miles</sup> ~~a mile~~ east of Dobbins. struck beside abundance of Pinus ponderosa & Libocedrus decurrens, Pseudotsuga, Pinus lambertiana, Cuneobatia foliolosa, Acer macrophylla, Quercus Californica, Q. chrysolepis, Q. wislizeni, Ternstroemia, Arbutus, Cronothus thyroideus (big tree), C. praealtus, Quercus densiflora, Cornus nuttallii; & Abies grandis? at 2300 to 2800 feet. In other woods we struck pure transition zone at about 2500 feet on west slope 2 miles east of Dobbins.

Farther along in cold N.-E. gulches Pachystima is common, Alnus, Aquilegia & other plants from Canadian zone.

Came down again to Ballards Bar on N. Fork R. at 1800 feet, but in the narrow gulch found only transition species common.

Crossed the river - followed up long  
grade to Camptonville on ridge at 2700  
+ on up grade 3 miles farther to road  
station on ridge at 3750 & camped.

No grass except in a few fenced  
in patches, plenty of streams + springs.  
Thick chaparral + good timber.

Came 22 miles.

June 22 Climbed steadily up easy grade  
+ good road along crest of ridge till  
nearly 5000 feet, 4800 was the highest  
reading but higher ridges were crossed.  
Deep canyons down steep slopes  
to rivers on both sides. Splendid  
forest in which *P. ponderosa*, *P. lambertiana*,  
*Pseudotsuga*, *Libocedrus decurrens*,  
and *Abies magnifica*? hold about  
equal rank. Trees often 8 feet in  
diameter + 150 or more high. Sugar pine  
is probably the largest on an average.

*Camelotia* forms miles of beautiful  
clean carpet dotted with flowers.  
*Arctostaphylos manzanita* takes the  
places of *viscidula*. A large white  
'flower' *Oenothera* is common +  
the thorny *C. cordulatus* forms solid masses.  
*Eutamias quadrimaculatus* is common.

## Near Downsville

At the Mountain House (4500 feet) we begin to descend a continuous single grade that cuts into a steep <sup>east</sup> slope down to the N. Yuba R. 4 miles below Downsville at 2700 feet. This is a forest & brush covered slope with numerous cold, N.E. gulches & beautiful little streams.

In place the Philadelphys bushes are loaded with flowers that load the air with fragrance.

Camped in gulch half a mile from N. Yuba R. Came only 14 miles.

June 23 Remained at camp in gulch writing up notes & doing various left over pieces of work while the horses' backs rested got sound.

June 24 Sunday. Went to near head of Woodruff Gulch up good trail to old mine. Found Cinclus, Cyanocitta nest, Blue grouse with young as big as doves, & saw the little winter wren. Saw deer tracks & Thomomys hills. No chipmunks.



Up Yuba R.

June 25 Struck N. Fork Yuba R. 3 miles from camp & followed 4 miles up to Downieville, crossing to north side on toll bridge a mile below town. In this part of canyon found a trace of Upper Eocene species mixed with the transition, viz: - *Arctostaphylos viscida* & the tall, white flowered *Eriogonum*. Otherwise transition species cover the high, steep slopes & the narrow strips along the river banks. The River is a rapid, muddy stream full of places debris. The banks have been washed out & the bars scraped up for gold dust. A few little ranches hang on to the side slopes or nests in nooks of the river valley.

Downieville is a typical mining gulch town with only one street, but it is old & has many comfortable & even pretty houses.

Got supplies & continued up the South Fork of N. Yuba R. about 8 miles & camped 4 miles below Sierra City.

Good road but heavy toll.

Barometer read at camp in Woodruff Gulch 2550 at river 2550, at Downieville 2800, at Camp 3750.

to Sierra Buttes

June 24 Camp 4000. 7 AM.

Horses went back about 4 miles  
we got a late start. Followed up the  
river gulch, rising slowly & steadily.  
Came to Sierra City in about 4 miles, (4300 ft)  
Then turned north up North fork of the south  
fork of N. Yuba R. & camped at noon  
at 5150 feet at old cabin, at E. base of  
a mass of tall, jagged <sup>(Sierra Buttes)</sup> peaks that we saw  
from Marysville. Large boulders of rhyolite  
at their base about 2000 feet above us

Steep slopes covered with chaparral  
+ scattered forests of *Pinus ponderosa* +  
*Pseudotsuga* + *Libocedrus* + *Abies lowiana*.

At 4800 feet on E. slope struck abundant  
*Conothus cordulatus*, *C.*  
*Quercus vaccinifolia*, *Arctostaphylos*  
*vaucineti*, *Cassiopeis* <sup>if any</sup> *T. laubertiana*.  
This really <sup>is</sup> a change to Canadian zone  
on E. slope. From Camp we can see  
<sup>hemlock</sup> hummocks near the snow 2000 feet above  
us on N.E. slope.

Sprained my ankle in morning & found riding so painful decided to remain at lunch camp over night. Covered only 10 miles. Goldman set out a line of traps. I could not walk.

Shot one large *Eutamias* *parryi*?

## Lincoln Meadows

June 27 Aukle buttes so we broke camp. Goldman caught 2 species of *Peromyscus* - one big eared & a lot of small ones.

Continued up the creek with good road & gradual ascent in a N.E. direction about 8 miles & camped at some meadows at north of Lincoln Creek at 6300 feet. Camped among *P. murrayana*, *P. Monticola*, *P. jeffreyi*, *Abies*, *Populus tremuloides* & other Canadian zone plants. The lower part of the gulch is mainly open & densely covered with chaparral - *Quercus vaccinifolia*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Ceanothus*, *Crotonus cordulatus* & C. —

Fire seems to have destroyed the old forest which still exists in strips & patches. & consists of *Pinus ponderosa*, *P. lambertiana*, *Pseudotsuga*, *Abies balsamea* & *Quercus californica* - a typical transition zone set. At 5600 feet *P. murrayana* & other Canadian zone species began in the bottom of gulch & on meadows & at 6000 feet the whole slope becomes Canadian. (This point on the stage road is about 10 miles from Sierra City or 6 miles straight N.E. of Sierra Buttes.) Little meadows & open parks are

common along the stream & the woods  
became more continuous & dense &  
cool. Some pretty camp places were  
passed. The stream became clear &  
beautiful above where the Young America  
mine turned in its muddy wash.  
Side streams become numerous &  
gulches full of alders & willows are  
frequent. The chaparral becomes less  
dense over the higher slopes & does not  
come into the woods.

The stream we camped on is too big  
to jump across & is very rapid. It  
seems to be the east branch of the west  
branch of the north fork of the south  
fork of North Yuba R. We camped on  
its bank in a grove of nursery pines.  
Goldman set out a line of traps while  
I made skins & got supper. My foot  
is still too sore to walk on.

*Eutamias amoenus* bigan with *Peromyscus*  
at 5400 feet & was common all the way up  
to camp; apparently restricted to Canadian  
zone. One *Eutamias amoenus* was  
taken at upper camp. *C. chrysocheilus*  
& *Sciurus californicus* are both common  
in Canadian zone.

June 28

To Sierra Valley

Foldman caught 10 little  
*Peromyscus* and one *Sorex*  
chipmunk.

Started up the gulch leading east  
at right angles to stage road &  
followed an old road about 4 miles to  
camp a big meadow at 7000 feet & camped.  
High up in Canadian zone with snow  
banks all around us & hemlocks  
growing not far above. The big meadow  
is called Lincoln Valley & the creek  
we suppose is Lincoln Creek. No one  
lives here & no stock is here now  
though sheep are usually pastured  
here. It is said that some plant  
killed many of the sheep last year &  
none have been brought in this year.

The big meadow is surrounded by high  
ridges of lava & cinder & volcanic rock  
that seem like the rim of a big old  
crater. Most of the range is granite.  
We climbed to top of the highest part of the rim  
west of meadow where we found much snow,  
some hemlocks, and a few bluegrouse.  
At about 8000 feet. Had a fine view  
over Sierra Valley to the N.E. & of Sierra Buttes  
to the S.W. & over timber covered ridges all around.

The little creek is full of trout that  
provokingly refuse to bite. Mosquitos are  
bad but soon fly out after sundown.

*Eutamias pater* is abundant from  
at least 4000 feet up to top of ridges.  
No other species seen.

*Thomomys* . . . . . com.

*Sciurus californicus*, . . . . .

*S. chrysodiscus* . . . . . "

*Peromyscus* small one, 14 in traps in morning.

*Eutamias* . . . . . one lived under log.

*Euthyon* . . . . . gnarled trees were common.

Deer . . . . . a few tracks seen.

Bear - brown . . . . . said to be common.

## To Sierra Valley

June 29. Started for Sierra Valley cross the  
Came over ridge north to small stream &  
pretty meadows followed up it to its head  
& over flat divide & down a similar little  
creek with meadows to the east. Traveled  
through clean, open forests of *Abies magnifica*  
& *P. murrayana* & *P. nathicola* full of parks &  
meadows down very gradual descent  
for 5-6 miles. Then came to abrupt  
& rocky descent for about 2 miles  
down to edge of Sierra Valley. No trail  
& the slope covered with chaparral.  
Had hard work to get down but  
made it in course of 2 or 3 hours.

Left Canadian zone at about 4600  
feet on east slope where we struck  
*Pinus ponderosa* & *Larix laricina* & left  
*P. murrayana* & *Abies magnifica*. Did not get  
this limit very accurately as I was  
kept busy looking for a way through the  
brush & around rocks.

Saw one bear track & when we got down  
found the gulch was called the Bear Den  
because so many bears lived in it.

Came out into Sierra Valley 3 miles  
north of Sierraville. Traveled S. 4 mi. & camped  
at Hot Springs, a mile S. of Sierraville.  
Came about 10 miles

June 30. Remained in camp a day to work Sierra Valley. First it is a big, flat bottomed old lake bed, 2-145 miles across & surrounded with lava ridges on the E. & W. with a few small cones & craters in its edges. An indistinct shoreline about 75 feet above the bottom shows on the rare sage brush covered east side. Forest covered ridges surround the valley, 1000 to 2000 feet above its bottom. The whole valley is meadow & much hay is cut & stock wintered. It is largely a dairy region. All the land is fenced & good ranches are numerous.

The valley is straight transition with *Artemisia tridentata* & *Juniper*, *Wyethia*, & *Balsamorhiza* as its most characteristic plants outside of the marshes. *Pinus ponderosa* & *Libocedrus* come down to edge of marshes on W. side, but the east side is mainly sage covered ridges with scattered *Juniperus occidentalis* up the first slope 500 to 1,500 feet. Barometer reads 5300 in valley.

Serraville is 28 miles from Truckee with good road & daily stage.



July 1. Started for Weber Lake by the short cut road but took several wrong roads, & finally camped on the summit <sup>at 7300 feet</sup> a mile from the lake & overlooking it from the north. Set traps for Microtus & hunted Chipmunks.

Traveled S.W. from Sierraville & soon left the sagibush valley & followed up a creek among yellow pines & firs to the sawmill, then up a steeper slope striking edge of Canadian zone at 4100 in steep N.E. gulch, passing from *P. ponderosa* & *jeffreyi*, *Libocedrus* & *Abies lowiana* to *Abies magnifica*, *P. monticola*, *Acer glabrum*, and at 7000 to *P. murrayana*. This change from Transition to Canadian is about 7 miles S.W. of Sierraville.

*Eutamias amoenus* is common in Sierra valley & up to edge of Canadian zone.

No species seen in Canadian. Several fresh bear & deer tracks were seen.

*C. chrysodermus* is common. An old quail & brood of tiny young were nearly trampled by our horses feet.

Webster Lake + Independence Lake

July 2

Descended 4000 feet in a mile & a half & reached Webster Lake, a beautiful sheet of blue water a mile wide lying in a park-like valley of meadows & forest surrounded by snow peaks & ridges. *Pinus murrayana* is the only tree observed in the bottom part of the valley & it forms clean groves and forest strips between the deep green meadows parks and creeks. The parks & meadows are brilliant with flowers, blue fields of *Delphiniums* & *Camas*, pink *Tedicularis* & *Dodecatheons*, white "Epps" & *Polygonum*. There are 2 good looking cottage hotels on the lake shore in *P. murrayana* groves, lots of boats on the lake and some boarders.

The only objection to the place as an ideal summer camp is the people, or the fact that people are there. A good road comes to it from Truckee & goes over the pass to Nevada City.

The whole valley is pure Canadian zone with a Hudsonian rim higher up. Barometer read 7300 at camp on ridge, 6900 at Lake.

Followed down Little Truckee R.

which comes out of Webber L. and in about 3 miles descended into a transition zone valley of 6700 feet full of sagebrush, *P. ponderosa* & *Jeffreyi*, + with *munroana* still following the river banks. Followed down the river 9 miles to 4500 feet and turned on a branch road to the S.W. up grade again & in 3 miles came to the lower end of Independence Lake at 7000 feet. Struck Canadian zone a mile east of the lake at about 6700 feet. Found a hotel & hundreds of tents at lower end of lake so took an old sheep trail along north shore of lake to its west end & camped half a mile beyond lake in the big glacial gulch at practically 7000 feet but slightly above the level of lake.

Independence Lake is very similar to Donner Lake. It is an old glacial trough a mile wide & 3 or 4 miles long with steep shores that go down "capitulate". The lake is merely a feature of the gravelled glacial bed, coming from its <sup>now crest</sup> crater cire at 9000 feet, 2 or 3 miles west of the lake with its cinders & lava crusts & its granite bed & its long wearing. Heavy forests come down to the water.

except where burnt off & grown up to  
*Corythos* & *Aureus vacciniifolia*.

*Pinus jeffreyi* is common, especially along  
the north shore of lake on the warmer of the  
two slopes, but *Pinus murrayana*, *Pinus*  
*monticola* *Abies magnifica* (and a number  
of *A. lowiana*) and *Populus tremuloides*  
form the bulk of the forest. There are  
meadows & willow & alder groves at  
west end of lake & elegant places  
to camp. While people swam at  
the lower end the upper end of the lake  
is uninhabited & untrampled, though  
we passed a big herd of sheep coming  
up past the lake. Mosquitoes are bad.  
The stream is full of good sized trout  
that refused to bite.

*Eutamias amoenus* & *cinnamomeus* are  
common at camp. Throwing hills &  
mole ridges are common.

## Summit

July 3 Climbed to head of our canyon to Summit Lake <sup>at 8400</sup> & a snowy peak above it at 9000 feet. Could look down on Independence Lake, White-rock Lake, the lake at head of N. Yuba R. & a dozen more of various sizes. Found that a semicircle of cinder & lava crests formed the peaks around the head of the canyon that had been cut out to the north <sup>through the rim of</sup> from an immense crater. The crater is very old. The glaciers have cut deep into the granite.

Lakes fill the scooped out places. Snow banks are extensive and deep & hard out so glaciers among them. The snowbanks are common down to 8000 feet.

At 7700 feet on N.E. steep slope Tsuga begins & extends to top of peaks on warm slopes. At 8400 feet Bryanthus begins & is common above. Pinus monticola reaches to 9000 and becomes dwarfed & prostrate only distinguishable from albicans by its cones. Juniperus occidentalis, Cercocarpus ledifolius?, Artemisia tridentata, and a little Artemisia come up on dry slopes and rocky ledges to the summit and above.

## To Donner

July 4. Broke camp and started for Donner across summit of range. Climbed to summit and then down into Paradise Valley on the west slope. Followed down Paradise to 7200 feet & turned south, picking our way over rocky ridges & through gulches along the west slope of the range. Camped at 7500 feet under the humlocks. Traveled in Canadian zone all day except for the Hudsonian strip along the summit. Did not get below humlocks & Bryanthus on cold slopes.

July 5. Continued a few miles south to the railroad below Donner Meadows & followed up to east end & camped just below Donner. Got mail & supplies & wrote letters.

Came about 3 miles straight across but had to pick our way over rocks & through gulches and probably traveled 8 miles.

It has taken a day & a half to come from Independence Lake scarcely more than 10 miles away in a straight line. We found rough country & no trail. Came too far west over glacier worn granite. Struck River 4 mi. W. of Donner.

July 6. Wrote letters + reports all day.

July 7. Walter Fisher came.

Remained in camp finishing reports  
+ collecting things in the big meadow.

July 8. Sunday. Climbed to top of Lincoln  
Peak, 4 miles south of Domes, 18400 feet high.  
Found a good wind-trip of Hudsonian  
on the upper 1000 feet of its slope,  
with hemlocks, *Salix g. villosa*,  
*Bryanthus oregoni*, *Sibaldia procumbens*,  
+ dwarfed *Pinus monticola* + *Abies vaginifera*.  
Big snowbanks come down to 7400 feet or  
lower on steep slopes.

Found signs of *Lepus campestris* on top  
of peak, also of *Urotrichus* + *Thomomys*.

Men are at work pulling out the  
meadow in the meadows above Domes  
as several cows have been killed by it.

July 9. Sent Walter Fisher down the road  
for *Eutamias quadrivittatus* but in  
going 12 miles he did not reach  
the edge of transition zone, 6700 feet  
was the lowest altitude reached. He found  
*Sorex* + *Prater* as low down as he went.

We went around to the basin on south  
west side of Castle Peak on the trail to  
Paradise Valley. Found some pretty little  
basins with streams & lakes & meadows  
but all eaten over by sheep.

Came back over the trail east & north  
of Summit House, saw a big grebe on  
rocks near the hotel.

July 10 Packed up & moved camp to  
head of amphitheater 2 miles south of house  
to 7500 feet altitude, camped by  
little meadow near snowbanks under  
the hemlocks.

The two ridges running east & west  
& turning north from Lincoln Peak form  
a circular amphitheater that was once  
the rim of an immense crater. The  
glacier has cut out its north side of  
rim, & woods and meadows now fill  
the gulch. The remaining part of rim  
including Lincoln Peak, is lava & cinder  
& burnt rock. Lava & volcanic rock  
extends south to Timber Knob at least.

Set traps in meadows near camp.



July 11. Went over into valley of N. Fork American River above Soda Springs & around to south side of Timber Knob to look for trail to Lake Tahoe & see if the country was worth working.

Found 2 big herds of sheep & the grass all eaten off & country bare & dusty.

The pass over to Squaw Creek is very steep & rocky. & the timber lower down is mostly burned off. Concluded not to move camp to this side.

Saw some bear sign but sheep have spoiled the country for wild things.

July 12. Went around north of Donner Peak & found a beautiful meadow & mulock grove & camp in, above the hotel & station & overlooking Donner Lake. This one of the prettiest places to camp in I ever saw.

July 13. Moved camp over north of Donner Peak to little meadow below snowbank at 7900 feet.

July 14. Have been collecting around camp for 3 days getting *Lagomys*, *Arctomys*, *Neotoma*, *Microtus* etc. - Today I went down to Donner Lake where *S. beldingi* is common & got some to show whether typical. The lake lies in Canadian zone at 6100 feet except a few Transition zone things in the dry, hot slope facing south. An extensive grove of willows, *unrepens* & aspens at the west end of the lake forms good cover for mammals. Saw rabbit tracks in the trails. Some park like meadows near the lake are homes of numerous *S. beldingi*, *Eutamias* *sevens* & *senex*, *S. chrysocollaris* & *Thomomys*.

On return trip came by short cut to camp, up the slope over snow shed and around south of the rocky end of Donner peak. Had a hard climb down 2000 feet & back without getting much.

Killed a young woodchuck, *Eutamias* *senex* & *S. beldingi*. Took a lot of photos of rock slides & the glacier worn rocks in Donner pass & lower down of *Pinus jeffreyi*.

## To Emigrant Gap

July 17. Packed up specimens, wrote letters and started Walter on a trip to Arizadee. Didn't get much else done except a few skins made up & a few traps set.

July 18. Went over the ridge on east side of Donner Peak down nearly to snow sheds in the big loop but did not find much. Saw one Coyote but missed it.

July 19. Rode down to Truckee by the railroad loop & Donner Lake, returning by Donner Station. Made the trip for a game line but found Truckee in nearly pure Canadian, though arid. On hot slopes many transition things come up to Donner Lake. Found *S. beldingi* to Truckee.

July 20. ~~Sunday~~. Worked at Camp.

July 21. Took 8 A.M. train to Emigrant Gap & returned on 5 P.M. train. Found plenty of *cutanias quadrinaculatus* & other transition zone things & a trace of Canadian on cold slopes. Got a lot of birds & mammals.

## To Lake Tahoe

July 22 Sunday. Made up yesterday's batch of specimens.

July 23 Wrote reports & packed specimens

July 25 Broke camp at Donner Peak & moved down to west end of Donner Lake. Set traps & hunted. Shot *Neotoma acadicus* in evening.

July 26. Hunted & trapped & made specimens at camp.

July 27. Started early, followed down north side of lake to Truckee & up river to Lake Tahoe. Camped 2 miles south of outlet of lake on shore. Came about 25 miles. Good road all the way & a new narrow gauge railroad just being completed from Truckee to Tahoe.

A few transition zone things come from Truckee up the valley of Truckee river on dry & hot slopes to the lake, but in general the vegetation is Canadian.

*Artemisia tridentata*, *Rhus tridentata*, *Ceanothus velutinus* & *prostratus*, *Rosa californica*, *Ribes cereum*, *Arctostaphylos*

patula, + other transition zone plants extend up the river to Lake Tahoe + along the west shore of the lake in dry, warm slopes. *Libocedrus* and a few *Pinus ponderosa* grow along the lake shores, the latter at Emerald Bay and Tallac. The rather barren, burnt off & chopped off, east side of the lake with its dry, warm slope is undoubtedly as nearly pure transition as the west side is Canadian, so the lake valley is a mixture on the edge of Canadian & transition zones. The bulk of timber & shrubs along the west side of lake is of *P. jeffreyi*, *P. murrayana*, *Abies magnifica*, *A. lowiana*, *Populus tremuloides*, *P. trichocarpa*, *Amelanchier alnifolia*, *Prunus emarginata*, *Cornus canadensis*, all Canadian zone species. The lake is 6225 feet and except for dry, hot slopes right to be pure Canadian. The large size of the basin valley, however, gives the affect of high baselevel.

The lake is neither an immense crater nor a glacial scoop. It lies between two ranges of mainly granite mountains and owes its basin

form to a lava cross ridge, once  
several hundred feet above the lake, running  
across the valley at north end of lake.  
The outlet has cut a notch 200 or 300  
feet deep through this lava ridge,  
just below the lake. The road & railroad  
run through this notch.

Big glaciers have come down into  
the lake, or into the valley before the lake  
was there, on the west and scooped out  
wide troughs. Emerald Bay, Cascade  
Lake & Fallen Leaf Lake, Emerald  
Bay being the only one at present  
reaching into ~~the lake~~ Lake Tahoe,  
but the main lake basin is merely  
a mountain valley between two ranges.

*Spermophilus beldingi* was seen very  
few miles along the way from Donner Lake  
& Truckee up the river to Lake Tahoe &  
along the lake shore. Its range is  
perfectly continuous from Tahoe to Donner.

## To Emerald Bay

July 28. Followed along the west side of Lake Tahoe on good wagon road to Mr. Kinney and on a little used road to Frasts & then on trail to Emerald Bay & camped. Came about 20 miles & part of the way over rough country. Most of the good timber has been cut & put in the lake for lumber from not only the shore but back over the ridges. Old shoots remain down the steep slopes to the shore. The timber was once magnificent *P. jeffreyi*, *Lambertiana*, *Libocedrus*, & *Abies magnifica* & *lowiana*. The big stumps stand all around but all else has been burnt & most of the small trees destroyed except in damp places. Thick Chaparral covers the country. The ground is sandy & dusty & hot. A few miles of magnificent, untouched forest at Idlewild show what it once was all along the lake. This & at Emerald Bay are the only uncut spots. A big basaltic tower 400 or 500 feet high stands in the forest at Idlewild, which is the prettiest place north of Emerald Bay.

McKinney is a hotel & cottage  
camp place in rather brushy,  
unattractive country. Frisco is  
a new place, not very interesting.

At noon we hunked on General Creek,  
& found lots of big lake trout trying  
to get up the creek - evidently they  
were spawning as in places the creek  
bottom was covered with eggs in every  
stage of segmentation. The trout  
were often stranded on shallow places  
or at logs in the small stream  
& many dead ones were seen.

The shores of the creek were tracked  
up with bars that had been feeding  
on the fish.

*Spermophilus beldingi* were seen at  
suitable places all along the lake shore.  
Gulls were the only birds on the lake.  
Many mountain quail & a few blue  
grouse were seen, old & young of  
both.

The rock is mainly granite & much  
of it soft so it forms loose  
granite sand.



July 29 Sunday.

Remained at Emerald Bay all day & explored the canyon above.

Camped under big *Pinus ponderosa* on the shore & let the horses run in the little meadow. Photographed the falls and bay. Two falls just back of the bay are very pretty but only about 50 or 60 feet high. The canyon rises rapidly and the peaks & slopes are very abrupt around the bay and are rounded & smoothed by ice.

Mrs. Armstrong, the lovely, white-haired old lady who owns & keeps Emerald Bay as a private property was extremely hospitable & pleasant to us, letting us camp & pasture our horses on her little flower garden meadow. We visited Sailor Jack, a bold crazy old fellow who has a house boat on the shore half way down the bay where he stays all the year, doing odd things & "studying". His main study is the "perfection of ease".

Fallen Leaf Lake

July 30

Followed a fairly good trail over the ridge to Cascade Lake & a road from there to Tallac - 6 miles in all.

Cascade Lake is a good place to camp with plenty of grass. Crossed big meadows near Tallac where the dairy cows range.

Got mail & supplies & went out to Fallen Leaf Lake & camped near middle of north west side.

July 31. Rode up to Camp Ayassiz but Price & his boys had gone around Lake Tahoe. Then rode up to Glen Alpine Springs & back to camp, almost encircling Fallen Leaf Lake.

Aug. 1. Moved camp about 5 miles south to Myers, on Upper Truckee. & camped in the big flat under <sup>(7300 feet)</sup> *Pinus murrayana* at edge of meadows. Set traps, hunted & wrote up notes.

Aug. 2. Went back to Tallac for mail & supplies.

To Placerville

Aug. 3. Started for Placerville

At Myers we turned into field to go by the dairy ranch + rode for a mile over sandy flat where the big junipers grow - 4 feet in diameter + 75 feet high - photographed several. Followed up the valley a short mile + turned up the grade over crest of range at 7500 feet. Good road up steep slope.

Went around to Echo Lake but decided to return + camp on Placerville road at upper end of meadows on west slope. Camped at 7300 feet just below Audrian Lake. This is the extreme head of the south fork of American River.

Came only 5 miles on the direct road. Camped at noon + hunted. Got a nice *Pinicola*. Found signs of swan goose. Rabbits common. *S. beldingi* + 3 species of *Eutamias* are common. *Thomomys*, *Peromyscus*, *Microtus mordax*, *Sciurus californicus*, are common. A few deer tracks seen in meadow.

Aug 4.

Started down S. Fork American R. Steep, jagged granite ridges on both sides. Big meadows + *Abies magnifica* + *P. murryana* forest for a few miles, then steeper, grade + narrower gulches + more rocky country until we passed through the Gate at Echo (Strawberry Valley), then gentler slope but narrow gorge to Slippery Ford, where we camped.

Echo at 5500 feet, marks beginning of Transition zone on west + S.W. slopes. *P. ponderosa*, *Lambertiana*, *L. concolor*, + the whole set of Transition trees + shrubs begin abruptly to the Canadian species - *Abies magnifica*, *P. murryana* + *monticola* - stop.

The 3 upper species of *Eutamias* were not seen below Echo, but *E. quadrimaculatus* began + was common. *Sciurus passer* + *Sciurus beecheyi* also became common.

Slippery Ford is 4000 feet + on S.W. dry slope a few traces of Sonoran origin to appear - *Cercocarpus integrifolius* and on a few bushes of *Arctostaphylos viscida* were seen. In general still pure transition.

Aug. 5. Slippery Ford to Spartenmans Hall - 23 mi.

Followed down the S. Fork American R. to Riverton (Moore) where we crossed to south side on bridge at 3300 feet. The canyon is narrow and the side slopes are steep and at present dry.

On the north side of river many upper Sonoran species come up to Moore which fairly marks its extreme upper limit. Opposite side of canyon is pure Transition, & after crossing the river we go up a gradual grade to 4000 feet on top of ridge at 14 mile house (Spartenmans Hall). Here the road descends again out on open ridges sloping S.W. & N.W.

*Pinus ponderosa* & *lambertiana* & *Pseudotsuga* *Libocedrus*, *Abies lowiana* & *Quercus californicus* <sup>& *chrysolepis*</sup> are the trees of Transition zone on this part of the slope. *Arctostaphylos*, *petula*, *Cercocarpus cordulatus*, *prostratus*, & *velutinus*, *Pinus evaginata*, *Corylus* & *Amelanchier* are the principal shrubs.

*Eutamias quadrimaculatus* are common from Pacific along to near Spartenmans Hall.

Aug. 6 Spartanburg Hall to Placerville, 12 mi.

Followed down open dry transition zone ridges to Gravel House (6 mi. E. of Placerville) where Upper Sonoran begins at 3000 feet (S.W.), marked by *Pinus sabiniana*, *Quercus douglasii*, *Lefota*, & *agrobola*, *Arctostaphylos viscida*, *C. cuneatus*, *Oseulus californica* & the whole set of upper Sonoran plants. *P. ponderosa*, *Libocedrus*, *Pseudotsuga* & *Q. californica* run down to Smiths Flat (2300 feet) & slightly to Placerville (at 1900).

I shall take Smiths Flat as the average edge of Upper Sonoran on West slope.

It is in the foothills with fertile valleys & low ridges, red soil and good crops where water is used for irrigation. Hay, grain, & fruit are the main crops. Grapes, figs, peaches, pears, plums, apples & berries are seen along the road.

*Lepus californicus* tracks are common up to Spartanburg Hall (4000 feet), 1000 feet into transition zone.

back to Echo Lake

Aug. 7. Had to send to Sacramento for pack-saddle so remained in camp at Smith Flat. Hunted hard for *Eutamias merriami* but found none & was told that no chipmunks were known this side of Sutter's Hall. Went to Placerville again but found the saddles still had to be fitted up & could not get them until morning.

Placer is a lively little town where the mining industry is yielding to the agriculture.

Aug. 8. Went to Placer & got saddles & then started on return trip.

Came as far as Pacific & camped.

Aug. 9. Passed Riverton & Slippery Ford & camped about 5 miles west of Echo at about 5000 feet, where *Aplodontia* holes were found. Set traps & caught a fine old male *Aplodontia major*.

This is in pure transition zone.

Aug. 10. Came past Echo <sup>Lake</sup> & back to our old camp near Indian Lake



Aug. 11.

Took a tramp round by Echo Lake & to upper end, then back over the ridge to camp. Climbed to peak on ridge at 9200 feet where I found abundance of *Pinus albicaulis* full of mature cones & also *Saxifraga tolmiei* & *Oxyria digyna*. Had a fine view of the amphitheater of high peaks from Mt. Tallac around to Pyramid & of Echo Lake & Tahoe.

Found populus camps at both ends of Echo Lake & saw horses at the little lake to the west. Found the lake valley a very bare, rocky glacial trough with scant timber. The upper lake contains a dozen rocky islands & there are cottages on two of these.

Aug. 12. Sunday.

Remained at camp most of the day.

Heavy frosts every night - clear days.

Aug. 15 Went down to old camp on Upper Truckee River (4 mi. S. of Tahoe) Camped & took horses into Tahoe where I met Dr. Merriam & John Muir.



Aug. 14. With additions of Dr.  
Merriam & John Muir & this  
man & team our party moved  
southward ~~up~~ the range east  
of Upper Smoky River and camped  
at Grass Lake on the summit.  
From this on Dr. Merriam  
will keep the journal notes.







